

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the subtitle beginning on page 1, line 6 with the following amended subtitle:

~~TECHNICAL FIELD~~BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

Please replace the subtitle beginning on page 1, line 12 with the following amended subtitle:

~~BACKGROUND ART~~2. Description of the Related Art

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 2, line 17 with the following amended paragraph:

However, in such a network system, there may be a case where requests for outputting jobs are concentrated onto a particular image forming apparatus, and accordingly some devices can output jobs but other devices are ~~standby~~standing by for outputting of jobs. Therefore, image forming apparatuses may be ineffectively utilized.

Please replace the subtitle beginning on page 7, line 10 with the following amended subtitle:

~~DISCLOSURE SUMMARY~~OF INVENTION

Please replace the subtitle beginning on page 18, line 4 with the following amended subtitle:

~~BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT~~DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 23, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

The data judgment section 30 ~~analyses~~analyzes data transmitted from the network IF 13 and determines a destination, to which the data is to be transmitted, based on the result of the analysis. To be specific, when the data judgment section 30 judges that data transmitted to the data judgment section 30 is a status change command, the data judgment section 30 transmits the status change command to the mediation section 34 (to be more specific, a status change section 40). Further, when the data judgment section 30 judges that data transmitted to the data judgment section 30 is data to be processed (referred to as a printing job hereinafter), the data judgment section 30 stores the printing job in the data storage section 31.

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 53, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, the MFP whose state is changed transmits to other MFPs status information ~~saying~~indicating that the status of the MFP is changed, when the status of the MFP is changed. The explanation is omitted in the flow chart.

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 55, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Next, the mediation section 34 transmits, to other MFPs, status information ~~saying~~indicating that the status of the MFP has been changed (S43). Based on the status information,

the other MFPs rewrite (update) status information storage sections that store the status of the MFP from which the status information has been transmitted.

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 55, line with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, when the data judgment section 30 judges in ~~S-41~~S41 that the MFP is not in the standby status (NO in S41), the data judgment section 30 judges whether the status of the MFP is the off status or not (S45).

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 55, line with the following amended paragraph:

When the data judgment section 30 judges that the status of the MFP is the off status (YES in S45), the mediation section 34 changes the status of the MFP from the off status into the standby status (S46). The mediation section 34 transmits to the other MFPs status information ~~saying-indicating~~ that the status of the MFP has been changed (S47). A series of processings are completed.

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 122, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

When it is judged in S122 in Fig. 19 that the data is a notice given from the MFP ~~4-97~~ (YES in S122), the data judgment section 116 analyzes the data and judges whether or not the data is the abnormality occurrence notice (S180).

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 122, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

When it is judged in S181 that the status of the MFP ~~4-97~~ having transmitted the abnormality occurrence notice is in the active status (YES in S181), the data judgment section 116 causes the destination determination section 122 to function so as to change the status of the MFP 97 in the standby status stored in the status table 121 into the active status (S182). Then, the processing goes to S184. On the other hand, when it is judged in S181 that the status of the MFP 97 having transmitted the abnormality occurrence notice is not in the active status (NO in S181), the data judgment section 116 causes the destination determination section 122 to function so as to make reference to the status table 121 and judge whether or not the status of the MFP 97 having transmitted the abnormality occurrence notice is in the standby status (S183).